Just the Facts

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WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS
Friday, Nov. 22 to Wednesday Nov. 27

Weekly Highlights not available at the time of this publication

Congratulations—

Ofc. Brady Fox and his canine partner Kash will be graduating from a 3-week narcotics detections course on Wednesday. With this training, Kash will be certified as a United State Police Canine Association (USPCA) narcotics detections dog. This photo is of Brady and Kash training during a vehicle search exercise.

Department News—

While we’re sad to see Cheryl Pfeifer leave the department, we are happy to announce that Wendy Bentley will be joining the Owatonna Police Department as the executive administrative assistant. Wendy brings loads of experience to this role as she transferred over from the City of Owatonna Finance Department to the Police Department. Wendy has been busy the past few weeks training with Cheryl to make this transition go as smoothly as can be expected when losing 33-years of experience. Please join us in welcoming Wendy to the department!

Classifieds

Suspect Arrested in Morning Disturbance—

During the late morning hours of November 24th, Owatonna officers were called to 435 16th St. N.E. for the report of a car that had been backed into by an ex-boyfriend. Arriving officer found the 22 year-old victim standing next to her car. The officers observed a large dent on the driver’s door near the door post. The officers learned that earlier in the morning, the victim and the suspect had broken up. The victim left the apartment and got into her car to leave. As she got into her car, the suspect got into his pickup. As the victim was backing out of her stall, the suspect backed his pickup into the driver’s door of the victim’s car. The suspect then got out his truck with a metal pipe. The suspect told the victim to open her door or he would break the glass. The victim refused and the suspect struck the passengers door window several times with the pipe, but the glass didn’t break. Responding officers located the suspect seated in the driver’s seat of a pickup—he was arrested and later transported to the Steele County Detention Center. Officers were able to locate a pipe in the truck bed and observed fresh damage to the rear bumper. Christopher M. Smith, age 21, was formally charged in District Court with 2nd Degree Assault with a Dangerous Weapon—a felony and Domestic Assault—a misdemeanor.

Signing Off Duty of the Last Time—

Friday will mark the end of a career of an Owatonna Police Department employee that has spanned over three decades. Cheryl Pfeifer, the department’s executive administrative assistant, will be retiring on November 29th after 33 years of service. Since beginning her career in 1980, Cheryl has been the assistant to five police chiefs and ninety police officers. Though Cheryl’s public safety work was done mainly behind the scenes, she has been an essential part of the department’s ability to deliver outstanding police services to the community. Cheryl is commended for commitment to professionalism and excellence in all facets of her job, the caring and compassionate manner she brought to work every day, and to being a friend to many. The nice part about retiring from doing what you do so well is you’ll have lots of time to make all your dreams come true—the bad part is how much we’re going to miss having you as part of our team. We wish you all the best and thank you for your service to the community! Cheryl and Wendy are pictured to the right.

Crash Sends One to the Hospital—

Last Friday, just after midnight, Owatonna officers were called to the 200 block of East Main Street for a traffic crash. Responding officers arrived to find a single vehicle crash involving a tree. The vehicle, 2001 Oldsmobile Alero, was found resting in the lawn of 240 East Main Street and had suffered heavy front end damage. Inside the vehicle, officers located a lone 25-year-old female occupant. The woman suffered a significant laceration to her forehead and her legs were pinned under the dash board and appeared to be seriously injured. The Owatonna Fire Department responded to assist and were able to cut the wreckage to free the woman’s legs. Once freed, the woman was transported to the Owatonna Hospital and airlifted to St. Mary’s Hospital in Rochester. The investigation into this crash continues, but alcohol appears to have played a factor in the crash.

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